



CITY OF CALEXICO

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**For Immediate Release
Monday, February 3, 2003**

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Passenger requirement for HOV lane is reduced to four

(Calexico, Ca) City of Calexico officials, along with Mexicali officials and Calexico INS director Michael T. Freeman gathered today in an attempt to improve transportation issues concerning the Calexico ports of entry.

According to Freeman, a decision was made on January 6, 2003 to create an HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lane strictly on an experimental basis for 60 days. The HOV lane, equivalent to a carpool lane, located in lane eight at the east port of entry, was created to help expedite students and workers commuting from Mexicali to Calexico. The lane was originally created for vehicles containing five or more people and scheduled to operate during peak hours between 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., Monday thru Friday. However, the passenger limit has been reduced to four people instead of five. This recommendation was made due to suggestions and feedback Mexicali and Calexico officials have received from the public this past month.

"This is about a halfway mark for the remaining 60 days. I think it's a great idea that for the remaining 30 days we reduce the passenger number to four people. This will alleviate some of the traffic and hopefully make the commute better for people," Freeman said.

As of Monday, February 10, 2003, the HOV lane will require a passenger limit of 4 people and will operate within the same hours of 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., Monday thru Friday. Calexico officials along with Mexicali officials and INS director Michael Freeman will meet again on Friday, February 28, 2003 to discuss the outcome of the experiment and decide whether they will continue with the HOV lane on a permanent basis.

For more information, please contact Karla Alatorre, Event and Media Coordinator, at 760.768.2110.

Viva Calexico!